



Sheridan Park Standard



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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parent & Students,

It is hard to believe the first month of school is already over! The staff and students have enjoyed a terrific start to the new school year. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our first month at Sheridan Park, where I feel very fortunate to have such a dedicated staff, supportive parents and, most of all, wonderful students! I appreciate all that we do together as a team.

September has been a very busy month. All staff are collectively reviewing and reflecting on our EQAO scores, and setting S.M.A.R.T. goals to reflect the Literacy, Numeracy, Eco goals and Character Education aspects of our growth plan for 2008-09

Our focus is to gather information to plan and to improve student learning. In order to gather this data, student assessments are done and recorded using analysis tools such as literacy portfolios, a vehicle that tracks individual student progress.

An Expert Panel Report, "Education For All", offers the following distinction:

Assessment of Learning is often referred to as evaluation, is used for reporting achievement and

usually expressed in marks or letter grade.

Assessment for Learning involves diagnostic and formative assessment to decide where students are learning, where they need to go and how best to get there. Teachers use these assessments to give quick feedback to students.

Assessment as Learning emphasizes the role of the student in making connections between assessment and learning. These assessments build self-monitoring through meta-cognition.

Through these assessment tools, teachers are able to plan for differentiated instruction that address individual student learning needs.

Staff and students are currently working on their Spelling Inventories. These inventories cover the full range of spelling skills. They do not assess all possible spelling patterns and features, but rather a representative sampling of each feature. To illustrate, an inventory may assess only the following sampling of long vowels patterns: oa, ai, a-e, i-e, igh. As such, the results obtained are used to determine which feature group, rather than which specific spelling patterns with any group, should become the focus of the classroom instruction.

The program assists teachers in choosing a focus for individual, small group and large group instruction.

Our "Shining Examples" bulletin board displays students' work from each class throughout the year providing them with the opportunity to share their work, growth and improvements in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Student will share their pieces of work with the principal, reflecting, setting next steps and celebrating as they continue to grow as a learner! Throughout the year, we will provide updates on our School Growth Plan in the areas of Reading, Writing and Numeracy.

In closing, I recently came across an article entitled, "Creating Literacy-Rich Homes" (Reading Is Fundamental).

What exactly is a literacy-rich home? This describes a home environment that encourages children to become lifelong readers. Families can support language learning by creating a home atmosphere in which reading, writing, and talking are a natural part of daily life.

Parents can do several things at home to encourage reading. Reading aloud to your children is only one of them. Another is setting aside regular time for family reading - even just 10 to 15 minutes a day. And by setting a good example letting your kids see you reading — is very helpful.

Creating a literacy-rich home requires a good supply of things to read. Newspapers, magazines, books, and other reading materials should be within easy reach of the whole family. It doesn't matter if reading materials are owned or borrowed, new or used — what's important is that they are in your home and a natural part of everyday life.

"Reading well is at the heart of all learning. Help make a difference for a child."

Yours in education,

JoAnna M. Roberto

Events at the Park

Professional Development Day

There is **no** school for students on Friday, October 10th, as teachers are involved in professional development activities to support program implementation in various subject areas.

Happy Thanksgiving

May your Thanksgiving be filled with the warmth and love of family and pleasant company of friends you will remember with a kind and grateful heart. Have a great Thanksgiving weekend! No school on Monday, October 13th.



Fundraising

Final magazine orders are due Thursday, Oct. 2nd. Congratulations to Isabelle N., who won the \$50 draw.

Our profits will support field trip subsidies, transportation, digital books, technology upgrades, our Character Education program, intermediate electives and our eco initiative! Thanks for supporting us in this fundraising endeavor.

Terry Fox Run/Walk

"One step at a time..."

As Terry Fox began his trek across Canada in 1980, one of his goals was to collect a dollar from each Canadian for cancer research. Now, 28 years later, we can safely say he certainly surpassed this goal.

Friday
September
26, 2008
was the
national

Terry Fox run/walk date for schools across Canada. We, along with hundreds of other schools, showed our support as we walked or ran or skipped in our neighbourhood.



For every toonie students brought in they received a complete sheet of teal tickets. All proceeds go to the Terry Fox Foundation.

Sheridan Park students raised over \$450.00. Thank you for your participation!

Photo Retakes – October 6th

The school photographer will return to Sheridan Park on **Monday, October 6th**, in the morning. (this is a change of date due to our Queenston Heights Outdoor Education Day).



Photos will be taken of students absent the day of our first school photos, as well as for those whose parents wish to have photos retaken.

Afternoon Kindergarten students needing photos done are asked to come to school that morning to have their pictures taken.

Queenston Heights – Oct. 3rd

On Friday October 3rd, 2008, all students in grades 1 to 8 will participate in our Outdoor Education day at Queenston Heights Park. This is a great day for students to participate in a variety of physical activities and games led by our staff. The great "Laundry Race", relays, sketching and frisbee golf are just a few of the stations this year. Students need to return their permission form and \$ 2.00 to their home room teacher as soon as possible!!! There is no rain date so we need the Sheridan Park community to "THINK SUNSHINE". A reminder notice went home on Tuesday September 30, 2008.

Pumpkin Run

For the month of October, each student in their respective PE classes are challenged to complete their warm-up run/jog without stopping. For each successful warm-up jog, students will receive a ballot that they will put into our "Re-useable Halloween bag". On Wednesday October 29, two ballots will be drawn from each division and the names drawn get to take home their own pumpkin to carve !!!



CCATS

All grade 4 students will take the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Tests from Sept. 30th - Oct. 6th. This test helps us to identify students' needs and abilities, so we can ensure appropriate learning programs are provided. It is a benchmark we can use to plan effective instructional programs in combination with other relevant information about our students, and students' learning. The tests also provide results used to enhance information which shows particular strengths in verbal, quantitative and non-verbal reasoning.

Grade 7 Hepatitis B / Meningococcal C**Grade 8 Females-HUMAN Papilloarvirus Immunizations**

The vaccination program for grade 7 & 8 (female) students will occur on Wednesday, October 17th. The Ministry of Health through the Regional Niagara Public Health Department provides the vaccines. The Hep B vaccine is given in two doses, four months apart. An information package, including a Consent Form, will be sent home with all grade 7 students and grade 8 (females) to review with their parents. Nancy O'Neill, the school nurse, delivered an information presentation to all grade 7 students and grade 8 (females). Forms are due Friday, October 3rd.

Halloween

On Friday, October 31st the Kindergarten (pm) to Grade 6 classes will walk to Anchor Pointe for their annual Halloween parade, leaving Sheridan Park at 1:40pm and arrive back at the school by approximately 2:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to be an active part of the Sheridan Park community.

Hopefully it will be a "boo-tiful" day to go for a walk and students can dress in their costumes for the afternoon or wear orange & black.

Intermediate students have a Halloween dance on the afternoon of Friday, October 31st. Masks will not be permitted in the dance. This is their first elective.

Walk This Way

The Secondary Schools of St. Catharines will host all of the Grade 8 St. Catharines students on Wednesday, November 5th, 2008.

The Grade 8 students will have the unique opportunity to experience, "A Day In The Life Of A High School Student." This event will occur while the Grade 9 students participate in, "Take Your Student To Work Day."

Ottawa Information Night:

Grade seven and eight staff will host an information night regarding the year end trip on Tuesday, October 7th at 7:00 pm.

Sheridan Park Choir

Choir members from Gr. 4-8 will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, October 7th in Ms. Leip's Luau Lounge, 1:05 - 1:35.

Rehearsals will be every:
Day 3 - 10:25 - 10:55 and
Day 6 - 1:05 - 1:35

Regular attendance and a love for singing are a must. Each choir member is required to bring an empty red duo-tang to use as a choir folder.

Choir performance dress will be a white top and black bottom.

We are booked for our first out of school performance on Tuesday, November 11th, 7:20 pm when we will perform Remembrance Day songs for the Board Meeting at the District School Board of Niagara Office. More details will follow closer to the date. See all of the singers on October 7th.

Sports Council

Students on the Sports Council are responsible for a wide range of activities and jobs in and around our school. Running the score clock for volleyball and basketball games, score keeping, being a lines person for soccer or volleyball games, setting up the stage for spectators, bringing out equipment for home games, and our P.A.L.S. program at recess for our Primary students (which will start in November), are some of this Council's responsibilities.

2008 - 2009 Sports Council members: Zach W., Chase R., William S., Caleb D., Bailey R., Riley S. Thank you ahead of time for your commitment and dedication!

Junior Boys' Volleyball

There will be try-outs for the Junior Boy's Volleyball Team on Tuesday, September 30th and Thursday, October 2nd at 7:30am sharp. Please be dressed and ready.

Practices will begin the week of Oct 6th, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, at 7:30am. The actual season begins the last week of October. The try-outs are open to all Boys in Grades 4-6. Good Luck Ms. Hedemann

Jr.Co-Ed soccer

Congratulations to the following junior students who made this years team: Katie E., Cierra M., Emily E., Juliana D., Ethan W., Decla M., Elayna M., Zach M., Brett C., Tyler M., Jaxon A., Brendan L., Josh J., Leah H., Braedon F., and Adam S. This year promises to be an exciting one for the junior Skyhawks.

Thank you to Mr. Freel for giving up his personal time to coach our team. Mr. Langalaan for lining our field for our home games, Kiersten and Malik for taking on the challenge of reffing our home games, Lucas and Chase for being our lines people and parents who volunteered to drive our team to away games.

Cross Country...

The Trilogy....Book One
Eleven Runners went to Burgoyne Woods on Wednesday, September 24th. We had some amazing results; four of our runners were in the top 20 of their event. They are: Kiersten C., Emily E., Brendan L. and Corey K. (who, by Mawson error, ran against the grade 8s, and still placed 10th...he was on fire!!!) Let it be said that the coaches, Mrs. Mongelluzzo and I (Mawson), are goose-bumped proud of our team!
Book Two....coming October 2nd....same setting, same characters, same conflict....

Intermediate Girls' Volleyball

Congratulations for Sheridan Park's 2008 Intermediate Girls' Volleyball Team! The following students have been selected for this year's team: Grade 7 students are: Cynthia P., Janine H., Rachel W., Mickayla B., and Madison S. Grade 8 students are: Marissa W., Ashlyn D., Shelby C., Kiersten C., Sam V., Jenna Z. and Arden P. Rachel F. and Mary T. are the reserve alternates.

Almost 40 intermediate girls signed up to try out for the volleyball team. What a turnout! Thank you to those students who made the effort and gave it all you had!
From, your coaches, Lauren Hauck and Mrs. Janzen

Attention Skyhawks!

Volleyball season is upon us. After an intense round of early tryouts, the intermediate boys roster has been finalized.

Congratulations go out to: Robert M., Andy S., Connor M., Corey K., Veniamin B., Jaeger M., Zack W., Aaron C., Sam L., Daniel H., Nick L. and Chase R.

Special thanks to our fantastic coaching staff from Lakeport Secondary School: Stephen Galbraith and Eric Scholl for volunteering their time and expertise this year. Our first, official game will be Tuesday October 7th, as we hit the road to challenge Queen Mary. If you're hoping to find a little excitement closer to home, Sheridan Park will be hosting match-ups every Thursday from October 9th – 30th. Spectators are always welcome. So come on out and cheer on our boys!

Running Club

Holy Toledo...or should I say Torpedo....we have blasted off to a GREAT start.

Here it is, September 25th, and we already have 331.4km under out belts (feet, actually). We run Tuesdays and Thursdays at First Break. Run and then eat your snack. We are always thrilled to see a new runner...of any ability! Come on out and RUN!!! Your heart will be glad you did!!

PE uniforms

We are expecting a shipment with shorts and t-shirts within the next few days. Ms. Osborne has made a note of those students who have paid for their uniform but have not received it. In the meantime, these students are expected to come prepared for PE classes in a t-shirt, shorts and proper running shoes (tied up of course!). Marks will not be deducted as long as they come prepared.

Gym bags: Students have been encouraged to purchase a gym bag as the bags are the perfect size to keep their PE uniform and a pair of running shoes in. For only a loonie students have their pick of colours: Positive in Pink, Groovy Green, Brilliant Blue or Pretty in Purple.

Sports Council will hand out the gym bags to students who have indicated they want one on their user fee form. If students did not pay their dollar to the office, they can still purchase one. (See Ms. Osborne.)

Student Council Reps

Student Council Members have been selected to represent our Skyhawks. They will be looking after Spirit Days, Pizza Days, other fund-raising throughout the year, audio visual set up, environmental issues, school promotions and school electives. These students demonstrate leadership and promote school spirit, as well as act for our school community. Student Council will sell popcorn on Thursday, October 23rd.

Eco News

For the month of September, staff and students have been working on their eco corners. Our recycling team visited classes for a recycling presentation and Mrs. Trussell's class received the gold bin for the month of September.

Go Girls

Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds is an exciting mentoring program being offered through Big Brothers Big Sisters St. Catharines - Thorold for girls age 12-14.

The goal of Go Girls! is to provide girls with information and support to make informed choices about active living, balanced eating and feeling good! A group of 8-10 girls will be paired with two female mentors, aged 18-25. The program consists of 9 sessions to be held at Sheridan Park Elementary School. The program will run from Wednesday, October 8th to Wednesday, December 3rd from 12:50pm to 1:50pm.

Teal Tickets

At our monthly assemblies, we will draw *Caught Ya* tickets from the Primary, Junior and Intermediate divisions! These tickets are given out to students by staff recognizing them for their efforts. Keep up the good work Skyhawks!

Congratulations to Niki M., Chantal G., Suzanne P., Caleb D., Tristan G., Kim B., Sarah H., Megan F., Tiffany P. and Brendon D.

Thank you to Mrs. Downs, Royal LePage Reality and Mrs. Massalis for September's donations.

Donations are welcomed. Please leave your donations with Mrs. Peacock.

Principal's Luncheon

Congratulations goes out to Carter P., Donny G., and Mickayla B. They had a Swiss Chalet lunch with the principal on Tuesday, September 30th! Keep up the great work!

Principal's Awards

Our first Principal's Awards Assembly of the year was held on Friday, September 26th and the following students were recognized for their fine efforts, dedication and commitment to school during the month of September: Our character trait was Responsibility.



Intermediate Early Bird Draw

Tracking points earn students extra point towards our character trait draw, congratulations goes to Billy Sadler.

Mrs. Deluca's JK/SK	Noah S., Isaac N., Connor I., Jacob M.
Mrs. Trussell	Sydney B., Rachel P.
Miss Jager	Sarkis N., Emily B.
Mrs. Breadner	Grania M., Nicholas L.
Mrs. Mongelluzzo	Gage B., Jamie-Lynne L.
Ms. Osborne	Elayna M., Zach M.
Mrs. Barton	Kate N., Elysha M.
Mr. Diorio	Janine H., Corey K.
Mr. High	Chris L., Samantha V.
Mrs. Janzen	Katelyn D., Caleb D.
Mr. Nicholls	Akif E., Salina P.

Character Trait for October is Cooperation.

"To work together by helping each other."

Indicators:

- I share and take turns.
- I work with others in a group.
- I try to make other people feel needed.
- I solve problems without arguing or violence.

School Council

We had our first meeting on September 30th. Thank you to all of the parents who were able to attend; we had a great turnout. Special luncheon for October is Boston Pizza. Fruit Kabobs will be sold on a monthly basis and garbage bags.

From the office

Head Lice

Head lice inspection will be conducted on a monthly basis at our school. It is essential that you check your children regularly and inform us if you do have to treat your child for head lice.

By doing this we can maintain the very low incidence of head lice that we usually have at Sheridan Park. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have questions or would like information, please give us a call.

Youth Counsellor

Our Youth Counselor is Tracy Hofland. She is at our school every Wednesday. If you require her assistance, please do not hesitate to call us here at the school on 905-937-0510.

A Request to Parents- Homework When Absent

When your child is absent from school we are more than happy to collect their homework for you should you wish to pick it up. However, we must ask that you request your child's homework when you call in his/her absence in the morning because Mrs. Peacock needs to get the request to the child's homeroom teacher before the 8:45 am bell. Please request it when you are phoning in your child's absence.

Please keep in mind teachers are in the classroom all day and it is very difficult for them to interrupt the teaching day to gather up homework at short notice.

We are able to meet these requests more effectively if teachers are given sufficient time to gather whatever homework is needed and have it down to Ms. Peacock in the office for 3:30pm pick-up by parents.

Homework websites are up and running for intermediates and juniors have homework "Catch-up" files for students who are absent.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Parent Contact Information

Parents are asked to write their contact information inside the student agendas. Often students may need to contact a parent during a break and they do not have a work number handy when student secretaries are in the office, they do not have access to this information.

If a student has a phone pass and needs to call one of their parents to inform them of an after school game or a change in schedule, this would be helpful to the child to have this information at their fingertips.

Student Safety Reminder:

As the days grow shorter we would like to remind parents to talk to your children about being safe going to and from school.

Remind them to:

- Go straight home after school
- Arrangements to go elsewhere should be made with parents before children leave for school
- Walk with a buddy if possible and stay on the sidewalks
- Cross with the crossing guard or at the lights with the walk signal
- Look both ways before crossing the street
- Do not take short cuts through fields or wooded areas such as the one beside the Burgoyne Arena
- Do not talk to strangers or approach any unfamiliar vehicle

World Milk Day

Students and teachers celebrated the ninth annual World School Milk Day. The kids loved the event. We know from research that kids who drink milk at lunch are more likely to meet their calcium needs for the day. Purchase a milk card for your child; kids love the program for the great tasting milk and fun rewards.

St. Catharines Fire Services

Fire Prevention Week takes place this year from October 5th to October 11th. The theme this year is "Its Fire Prevention Week-Prevent Home Fires." The kick-off is at Fire Station 1, 64 Geneva Street.

Computer Safety Tips



is the amount of time students spend on the computer and Internet.

Another precaution parents need to take regarding the Internet

Chatting and surfing online can become addictive and it can directly impact on the well being of your children.

Limiting the amount of time your children have on the computer and the Internet may help to increase their physical activity and productivity in regards to homework.

At Sheridan Park we do not permit online chatting and we screen all potentially inappropriate sites as suggested above. All computer and Internet access will only be permitted when supervised by the Sheridan Park staff.

The use of the Internet is a privilege that requires parental consent as outlined by the Netiquette form, which has recently been sent home.

While we believe computers are an important and valuable instructional tool, it is essential that they be used responsibly in a safe and supervised manner at all times.

Communication Matters: Good Communicators "Smart talk from your DSNB Speech-Language Pathologists"

Communication is at the core of learning and developing self-esteem. Learning how to communicate effectively with others is critical for social and academic development. Knowing the rules, communication, and behaviours that will help students to learn and live more harmoniously with others may be the most important tools they will acquire throughout their years in school.

Children become more receptive to learning when they feel good about themselves, and when they feel good about themselves, they are more willing to risk academically since making mistakes is less devastating. Good communicators do the following:

- use eye contact
- observe before they communicate notice body language -
- listen
- take turns
- use a polite tone of voice
- speak clearly
- use an appropriate rate of speech
- act interested
- remain on the topic
- allow adequate space between the listener and speaker

To help your child focus on good communication, your family might spend some time noticing all the 'habits' good communicators use. For example, if someone accidentally interrupts you and apologizes, you might comment on their good communication. You might also like to have each family member identify their best communication skill. Dad might be a good listener, while mom might be a good turn-taker. Once everyone is aware of communication, enhancing and learning new communication will be far easier.

Monthly Newsletter Draw

Did you read this newsletter with your child? Yes No

Tells us 3 things your child enjoyed about our first month back.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Check here if you prefer to read the newsletter online instead of receiving a monthly paper copy of the newsletter.

Family Name:

Return this portion of the newsletter by Monday, October 6th.